ASSOCIATION OF LONDON

By the King.

A Proclamation for the ordering of Tobacco.

THe Kings moſt Excellent Maieſtie, and His Royall Father of bleſſed memory, hauing at ſeuerall times and vpon ſeuerall occaſions, publiſhed their Proclamations concerning Tobacco, as well that which hath beene indeauoured to bee planted within this Realme, as that which is of the growth of Virginia and the Sommer Iſlands, and other Engliſh Colonies and Plantations, and alſo concerning Spaniſh and other forraigne Tobacco; And finding that the inordinate deſire of taking Tobacco, and the immoderate thirſt of gaine, by the planting and ſelling of Tobacco, cannot otherwiſe be allayed or moderated; Hath at the laſt, by the aduice of His Priuie Counſell, determined vpon this finall reſolution touching all ſorts of Tobacco, in manner following.

Firſt, His Maieſtie doth hereby declare His Royall Pleaſure to be, and doth hereby will and Command, that no perſon whatſoeuer doe at any time hereafter, plant, cheriſh, or preſerue any Tobacco, within theſe his Realmes of England or Ireland, or Dominion of Wales, or any the Iſles, parts, or places, of, or belonging to them or any of them, and if any bee now planted or growing there, that the ſame bee preſently plucked vp and vtterly deſtroyed, by the Owners, Planters, Tenders, or Dreſſers thereof, and leſt they or any of them, ſhould aduenture to neglect the performance hereof, His Maieſtie doeth further ſtraitly charge and command all Conſtables, Tything-men, Headboroughs, and other Officers within their ſeuerall limits and Iuriſdictions, carefully and effectually to ſee the ſame executed and performed accordingly. And His Maieſtie doth further will and Command all Iuſtices of Peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, and other principall Officers in their ſeuerall places, within the compaſſe of their ſeuerall Iuriſdictions and authorities, vpon complaint to them made, to cauſe the ſame to be duly performed and executed without partialitie, as they and euery of them will anſwere their contempts in that behalfe at their vttermoſt perils.

And that the Tobacco of His Maieſties owne Plantations and Colonies may not bee planted and imported hither without limitation or meaſure, or vnder colour thereof, the Tobacco of the growth of Spaine and other forraigne parts, may not be brought into theſe His Realmes, or ſold or vttered heere, to the ouerthrow of His Colonies abroad, and to the waſting of the wealth and treaſure of His Kingdomes at home. His Maieſtie doeth further will and ſtraitly Command, that no perſon whatſoeuer doe at any time hereafter import any Tobacco of the growth of Spaine, and other forraigne parts out of His owne Dominions, nor ſell, vtter, or offer to ſell, or vtter, or otherwiſe diſpoſe or keepe any ſuch Tobacco, to the intent to ſell or vtter the ſame without His Maieſties ſpeciall Commiſſion in that behalfe, vpon paine of confiſcation and forfeiture thereof, in whoſe hands ſoeuer the ſame ſhall be found, and vpon ſuch further paines and penalties, as by the Lawes of theſe His Realmes, or by His Prerogatiue Royall which in this caſe He will not admit to be diſputed, may be inflicted vpon the offendors.

And becauſe ſuch forraigne Tobacco, may not be receiued and vttered, vnder the pretence of the Tobacco of the growth of Virginia, the Summer-Ilands, and other Colonies and Plantations, vnder, and within his Maieſties owne Dominions, nor the Planters, Owners, or Aduenturers, of, and in theſe Plantations, giue themſelues ouer to the planting of Tobacco onely, to make a preſent returne of profit, and neglect to applie themſelues to ſolide Commodities fit for the eſtabliſhing of Colonies, which will vtterly deſtroy theſe and all other Plantations; his Maieſtie doth further will and command, that from henceforth no Tobacco of the growth of Virginia, the Summer-Ilands, or any other Plantations, or Colonies, of, or within his owne Dominions, bee imported into theſe his Realmes or Dominions, or any the Ports, Hauens, Creekes, or places thereof, without his Maieſties eſpeciall licence in that behalfe, vnder the great Seale of England, and that vpon the importation thereof, the ſame bee deliuered into the hands of ſuch Commiſſioners, for his Maieſties owne immediate vſe, as his Maieſtie vnder his great Seale of England ſhal appoint, at, & for ſuch Prices and Rates to be paid for the ſame, as ſhall be reaſonably agreed vpon, betweene the Owners or Factors of the ſame, and the Kings Commiſſioners on his Maieſties behalfe, or if they ſhall not agree thereon, then to be tranſported againe, and ſold elſewhere, vpon paine of confiſcation and forfeiture thereof, and vpon ſuch further paines and penalties, as by the Law, or his Maieſties Prerogatiue Royall may be inflicted vpon them.

And further his Maieſtie doth ſtraitly charge and command, that no perſon whatſoeuer preſume to buy any ſort of Tobacco, within theſe Realmes or Dominions, or any Hauen, Port, Creeke, or place thereof, of any other perſon, then of his Maieſties Commiſſioners onely to bee authoriſed vnder the great Seale of England, as aforeſaid, and after the ſame ſhall bee ſealed with a Seale to that purpoſe appointed, and that they, vpon the buying thereof, doe expreſſe the true time when the ſame was bought, the quantitie and qualitie thereof, in and by a note in writing indented betweene the Buyer and Seller, teſtifying the ſame vpon the paines and penalties aforeſayd,

And if during theſe times of Hoſtility, any Tobacco ſhall bee imported by any of his Maieſties owne Shippes, or by the Ships of any of his Subiects, by way of Prize, or Letters of Marque, his further will and pleaſure is, that all ſuch Tobacco ſhall be deliuered vnto his Maieſties Commiſſioners, at, and for reaſonable prices, to bee accomptable therefore to his Maieſties vſe.

And his Maieſtie doeth hereby ſtraitly charge and command, all Cuſtomers, Controllers, Searchers, Wayters, and all other Officers, Miniſters, of, or belonging to his Cuſtomes, And alſo all Juſtices of Peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, Conſtables, and other Our Officers, Miniſters and louing Subiects, in their ſeuerall places and degrees, to take knowledge of this his Royall pleaſure and Commandement, and to bee ayding, helping and aſſiſting to his Maieſties Commiſſioners, and their Deputies, Factors and ſeruants, in all things touching and concerning this his Seruice, whereof his Maieſtie is reſolued to require a due and ſtrict accompt.

Giuen at His Maieſties Court at Windſore, the ninth day of Auguſt in the third yeere of His Reigne of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland.

God ſaue the King.

¶ Imprinted at London by Bonham Norton and Iohn Bill, Printers to the Kings moſt Excellent Maieſtie.
M.DC. XXVII.